

Message Text

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47

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-14 COME-00 EB-11 CU-04 SAJ-01

TRSE-00 OMB-01 STR-08 SCI-06 CIEP-02 NSF-04 DRC-01

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R 141050Z DEC 73

FM AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7256

INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

USMISSION BERLIN

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUCHAREST 4601

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, RO

SUBJ: PARTY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND COUNCIL OF

MINISTERS DECISION APPLAUD CEAUSESCU

VISIT TO US

REF: BUCHAREST 4597

1. IN HIGHLY UNUSUAL MOVE (SEE REFTEL), PARTY EX COM AND COUNCIL OF MINISTERS ISSUED JOINT DECISION DECEMBER 13 GIVING UNANIMOUS APPROVAL AND WARM PRAISE FOR CEAUSESCU'S VISIT TO US AND RESULTS ACHIEVED. ASSUME DEPARTMENT HAS FULL TEXT, WHICH APPEARED IN CENTRAL PRESS ON DECEMBER 14.

2. MUCH OF DECISION WAS COUCHED IN STANDARD TERMS OF
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APPRECIATION AND APPROVAL FOR CEAUSESCU'S ACTIONS BUT SEVERAL

ELEMENTS STRIKE US AS UNUSUAL. FIRST, OVERALL TONE OF DECISION IS EXTREMELY WARM, WITHOUT EVEN A HINT THAT VISIT MIGHT HAVE ACHIEVED LESS THAN HOPED FOR. VISIT IS DESCRIBED AS "UNUSUALLY FRUITFUL," "A COMPLETE SUCCESS" AND "OF HISTORIC IMPORTANCE." SECOND, THE PERSONAL ROLE OF PRESIDENT NIXON IN THE FAVORABLE DEVELOPMENT OF US-ROMANIAN RELATIONS IS SINGLED OUT FOR SPECIFIC MENTION, SOMETHING WE HAVE NOT SEEN BEFORE. THIRD, THE DECISION STATES THAT IT IS ROMANIAN POLICY TO PROMOTE ITS FOREIGN POLICY THROUGH INTERNATIONAL CONTACTS AT "THE HIGH LEVEL," A SWEEPING APPROVAL FOR CEAUSESCU'S DIPLOMACY BY FOREIGN TRAVEL AND INVITING OF FOREIGN LEADERS TO ROMANIA. FOURTH, PRESIDENT NIXON'S REAFFIRMATION OF HIS PROMISE TO SEEK MFN FOR ROMANIA IS NOTED WITH "SATISFACTION." FIFTH, THE DECISION MENTIONS THE DUTY WHICH THE INTERESTED MINISTRIES AND INSTITUTIONS HAVE IN EXTENDING US-ROMANIAN COOPERATION IN VARIOUS WAYS, INCLUDING EXCHANGES OF SPECIALISTS, SCIENTISTS, ARTISTS, CULTURAL FIGURES, TEACHERS AND ESPECIALLY STUDENTS AND YOUNG PEOPLE. WE HAVE NOT SEEN SUCH A STRONGLY-WORDED OR SWEEPING DECLARATION ON THIS SUBJECT IN PREVIOUS POST-TRIP DOCUMENTS. FINALLY, THE DECISION NOTES THAT NOT ONLY THE WHOLE PARTY BUT ALSO "THE WHOLE ROMANIAN PEOPLE" SALUTE AND APPROVE THE VISIT WITH LIVELY SATISFACTION, ALSO AN UNUSUAL FORMULATION.

3. COMMENT: TAKEN TOGETHER WITH THE HEAVY ROMANIAN MEDIA COVERAGE DURING AND FOLLOWING VISIT, JOINT DECISION IS STRONG EVIDENCE THAT PARTY AND GOR CONSIDER TRIP COMPLETE SUCCESS AND WANT PUBLIC TO VIEW IT THAT WAY. DECISION IS UNUSUALLY WARM AND LAUDATORY AND MAY BE INTENDED, INTER ALIA, TO SPIKE WIDESPREAD RUMORS BEING PUSHED BY SOVIETS AND OTHER EES HERE THAT CEAUSESCU'S EARLY RETURN STEMMED FROM DISAPPOINTMENT WITH ECONOMIC ASPECTS OF VISIT. AS NOTED IN PREVIOUS CABLES, HOWEVER, WE HAVE YET TO TALK WITH ANY ROMANIAN OFFICIAL WHO DID NOT SAY THAT TRIP CONSIDERED A COMPLETE SUCCESS.
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